

**Domestic Violence Coordinating Council**  
**Children and Domestic Violence Committee**

**December 12, 2016**

The Children and Domestic Violence Committee met on December 12, 2016 at 1pm at the Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families in New Castle County. In attendance were Secretary Carla Benson-Green (DSCYF), Marcey Rezac (Peoples Place), Shirley Roberts (DFS), Linda Shannon (DFS), Susanne Miller (Child Inc.), Mariann Kenville-Moore (DCADV), Ellie Torres (Family Court) was available by phone and Natasha Smith DVCC staff.

**Called to order:** Secretary Benson-Green called the meeting to order.

**Introductions:** Introductions were made by those in attendance.

**Minutes from May 23, 2016:** Minutes were approved as written.

**Old Business**

**Family Court Enhancement Project**

Ellie Torres (Family Court) stated that both the Differentiation and Access to Justice Subcommittees completed reports that included recommendations to the Management Team of the Enhancement Project. The Management Team also met with Chief Judge Newell (Family Court) regarding the recommendations included in the report. The next step for the project is for the information to be presented to Family Court Judges and Commissioners. Ellie also stated that the Family Court Enhancement Project does not currently have a Project Coordinator. The hiring of a new Project Coordinator will be on hold until priorities are set and the project moves into the implementation stage. Ellie went on to state that through this project additional materials are being developed to guide Pro Se litigants through the custody process. Also, the Divorced and Separating Parent Education curriculum is being examined. Some of the issues being examined include whether or not domestic violence information should be included in every divorced in separating parenting class as well as what barriers exist in completing the divorced and separating parents course. Secretary Benson-Green inquired if the report will be available to this committee and the public. Ellie stated that it would be a Family Court internal document and that it is not a finished product but rather identifies challenges and barriers in custody filings.

**Safe & Together**

Secretary Benson-Green will contact Maureen Monagle (DVCC) regarding funding for an evaluation by David Mandel using the Safe & Together Model. An announcement was also made that the Safe & Together Institute for Advocacy will be taking place in January 2017. Natasha Smith (DVCC staff) will forward the information to the Children & DV Committee regarding the Safe & Together Institute.

### **Definition of a Perpetrator of Domestic Violence and Rebuttable Presumption**

Ellie Torres (Family Court) stated that this item is scheduled to be discussed at a joint meeting with Family Court Judges and Commissioner in February 2017.

### **CDNDSC Recommendation**

The CPAC slides were completed and sent to Rosie Morales (OCA), therefore completing the CDNDSC recommendation.

### **New Business**

Mariann Kenville-Moore (DCADV) inquired about the existence of teen dating violence programming in the Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services. Secretary Benson-Green stated that perhaps there can be some programming done at the residential cottages.

**Next Meeting: TBD**